

Listing of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing confidential semiconductor manufacturing information comprising:

an access monitor module for authorizing user access to confidential information stored in a database;

an information sharing module for creating a transitory link to the confidential information in response to a user being authorized to access the confidential information; and

a transitory link maintenance module for maintaining the transitory link and selectively removing the transitory link from the system.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the access monitor module monitors user idle time and may grant access to the system upon verifying user authorization to access the system.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the access monitor module denies user access to the system if the user idle time exceeds an allowable time limit.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the information sharing module determines whether the confidential information is information the user is authorized to access and, in response to the confidential information being information the user is authorized to access, the information sharing module creating the transitory link.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a user privilege file, whereby the information sharing module ~~may-create~~ creates the transitory link when the confidential information corresponds to information contained in the user privilege filc.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the access monitor module uses cookies to authorize access to the confidential information.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

an information list and request link disconnected from the confidential information, whereby upon creation of the transitory link, the information list and request link is connected to the confidential information through the transitory link to allow for accessing of the confidential information.

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the transitory link maintenance module removes the transitory link when the system indicates that the confidential information is no longer authorized to be accessed.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system exists within a virtual integrated circuit fabrication system.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a network coupled to the system.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a database coupled to the system.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the access monitor module, the information sharing module, and the transitory link maintenance module are all written in the common gateway interface (CGI).

15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the transitory link is a symbolic link.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing confidential semiconductor manufacturing information comprising:

storing confidential information in a database of a system;

receiving a request from a user for access to the confidential information;

authorizing the user to access to the confidential information in response to the user providing the correct authorization information;

creating a transitory link which allows the user to access to the confidential information; and
selectively removing the transitory link.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the authorizing may be performed when the user has a user idle time in the system that does not exceed an allowable time limit.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

providing an information sharing module, wherein the authorizing may be performed in response to the user requesting confidential information that the information sharing module determines the user is authorized to access.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

providing a user privilege file, whereby the authorizing ~~may be~~ is performed when the confidential information corresponds to information contained in the user privilege file.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the authorizing includes the use of cookies.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

providing an information list and request link disconnected from the confidential information;
and

connecting the information list and request link to the confidential information through the transitory link when the transitory link is created to allow the user to access the confidential information.

22. Canceled

23. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the removing is performed after the confidential information has been accessed through the transitory link.

24. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the system is a virtual integrated circuit fabrication system.

25. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the transitory link is a symbolic link.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing confidential semiconductor manufacturing information comprising:

providing a virtual integrated circuit fabrication system;

coupling a database to the system;

storing confidential information in the database;

receiving a request from a user for access to the confidential information;

authorizing the user to access to the confidential information in response to the user providing the correct authorization information;

creating a transitory link which provides a connection to access the confidential information;

accessing the confidential information by the user through the transitory link; and

selectively removing the transitory link.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the authorizing may be performed in response to the user having a user idle time in the system that does not exceed an allowable limit.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further providing:
providing an information sharing module, wherein the authorizing may be performed in response to the user requesting confidential information that the information sharing module determines the user is authorized to access.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
providing a user privilege file, whereby the authorizing may be is performed when the confidential information corresponds to information contained in the user privilege file.

30. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the authorizing includes the use of cookies.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
providing an information list and request link disconnected from the confidential information;
and
connecting the information list and request link to the confidential information through the
transitory link when the transitory link is created to provide a connection to the confidential information.

32. Canceled

33. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the removing is performed after the
confidential information has been accessed through the transitory link.

34. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the transitory link is a symbolic link.